

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APR 11 2005

Group Art Unit: 2852
Examiner: William J. Royer

In Re PATENT APPLICATION Of:

Applicant: Akihito Onishi et al.

Serial No.: 10/647,285

Filed: August 26, 2003

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Attny Ref.: MAE 293

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

April 11, 2005

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

This paper is in response to the Official Action mailed on January 11, 2005.

Payment for six independent claims is attached (following the present amendment there is a total of nine independent claims).

No fee for extension of time is due. However, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0002 if any fees are needed to enter this paper, and please advise us accordingly. It is noted that no petition is required because of the authorization to charge, but please consider this paper a petition for extension of time if needed.

A substitute specification will be submitted on Tuesday, April 12. A marked-up version of the specification showing changes is attached. Some requirements of the Examiner are traversed, as is explained below.

A proposed drawing change is attached. The change is that suggested by the Examiner at page 2 of the Action, identifying edge 11b in Fig. 4(a). The requirement for "prior art" in Figs 9-10 is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.